Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00 FRB-03 OMB-01 L-03 SS-15 /077 W

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R 060858Z SEP 78 FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0536 INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O.11652: NA TAGS: ETRD, TH

SUBJ: TEXTILES AGREEMENT

REF: A) STATE 186175, B) BANGKOK 23612, C) BANGKOK 21084

1. DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN TRADE, RTG MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, HAS ADVISED EMBASSY IT NOW WANTS CHANGES IN PROPOSED TEXT OF NEW US-THAI BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENT. THIS IS CONTRARY TO EARLIER ORAL COMMUNICATION FROM DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN TRADE TO EMBASSY AGREEING TO U.S. DRAFT NOTE WHICH HAD BEEN NEGOTIATED DURING PATTAYA MEETING (REFTEL B). MRS. ORANUT OSATANANDA, CHIEF OF EXPORT PROMOTION DIVISION, EXPLAINED THAT EARLIER COMMUNICATION TO EMBASSY WAS IN ERROR AND DUE TO MISUNDERSTANDING IN COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN TRADE.

2. DANAI TULABAMBA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN TRADE, HAS WRITTEN LETTER TO EMBASSY DATED AUGUST 31, 1978, WHICH PRESENTS THAI POSITION AS FOLLOWS:
-- "THIS IS TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RECEIPT OF THE DRAFT TEXT OF THE BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENT WHICH YOU SENT TO OUR OFFICE FOR CONSIDERATION. IN THIS CONNECTION, I WISH TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REFER TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SIGNED IN PATTAYA BETWEEN THE LEADERS OF THE RESPECTIVE DELEGATION ON JUNE 4, 1978, WHICH STIPULATED THAT STANDARD PROVISONS NORMALLY INCLUDED IN U.S. BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENTS SHALL BE APPLIED TO THE NEW AGREEMENT. THIS IS ASSUMED BY US TO MEAN THE INCLUSION OF THE USUAL CLAUSES, WHERE APPROPRIATE, WHICH APPEAR IN THE TEXT OF THE AGREEMENT

SIGNED ON DECEMBER 29, 1975 AND IN EFFECT UNTIL 31
DECEMBER 1978. HOWEVER, WE NOTE FROM THE DRAFT TEXT
THAT THERE HAS BEEN CERTAIN DEPARTURES FROM THE PREVIOUS
AGREEMENT AND, THEREFORE, WISH TO PROPOSE THE FOLLOWINGS:
-- "1. ARTICLE 4 (B) BE REPLACED BY PART OF THE PROVISION
STIPULATED IN ARTICLE 6 OF THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES DATED
DECEMBER 29, 1975 AND SHOULD READ AS FOLLOWS:

- -- "4(B) IN THE EVENT THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT WISHES TO PERMIT EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES IN ANY CATEGORY IN EXCESS OF THE APPLICABLE CONSULTATION LEVEL DURING ANY AGREEMENT YEAR, THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT SHALL REQUEST CONSULTATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES ON THIS QUESTION.
- -- "THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES WILL CONSIDER EACH REQUEST SYMPATHETICALLY AND WILL DENY SUCH REQUESTS ONLY WHEN THERE ARE PROBLEMS OF MARKET DISRUPTION IN THE CATEGORY OR PRODUCT CONCERNED. IN DENYING A REQUEST, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES WILL SUPPLY TO THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT THE DATA UPON WHICH THE DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES WAS BASED.
- -- "2. DELETION OF ARTICLE 5A(IV) SINCE IT HAD NOT BEEN INCLUDED IN THE AFOREMENTIONED EXCHANGE OF NOTES. FURTHERMORE, WE WERE NOT SPECIFICALLY INFORMED AT THE TIME OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INITIALLING OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE WOULD BE AN INCLUSION OF THIS CLAUSE IN THE NEW AGREEMENT, OTHERWISE WE WOULD HAVE RAISED THIS POINT FOR DISCUSSION.

- -- "3. WORDINGS FOR ARTICLE 10 AND 15 IN THE NEW AGREEMENT SHOULD BE REPLACED RESPECTIVELY BY ARTICLE 16 AND 15 OF THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES OF DECEMBER 29, 1975.
- -- "WITH MY SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR YOUR KIND COOPERATION. YOURS SINCERELY, DANAI TULALAMBA".
- 3. AS EMBASSY HAD ALREADY SUBMITTED DIPLOMATIC NOTE DATED AUGUST 17, 1978 TO RTG MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TRANSMITTING PROPOSED TEXT OF NEW BILATERAL AGREEMENT ON BASIS OF UNDERSTANDING DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN TRADE HAD APPROVED TEXT EMBASSY HAS NOW SUGGESTED DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN TRADE HAVE MFA RETURN DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO EMBASSY AS "NOT RECEIVED." DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN TRADE AGREES WITH THIS APPROACH BUT ADVISES MFA IS HAVING DIFFICULTY LOCATING EMBASSY'S NOTE. EMBASSY WILL ADVISE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AS SOON AS NOTE PHYSICALLY RETURNED TO EMBASSY.

4. DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN TRADE HAS ALSO INQUIRED RE STATUS OF REQUEST FOR INCREASES IN CONSULTATION LEVELS CONTAINED IN REFTEL C. MRS. ORANUT ADVISES THAT DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN TRADE PLACES HIGH PRIORITY OF THIS REQUEST. SHE HAS ALSO INQUIRED RE STATUS OF REQUEST FOR RETROACTIVE INCREASE IN CONSULTATION LEVEL OF OLD CATEGORY 26/27 (REFTEL B).

5. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT, IF THESE RTG REQUESTS FOR INCREASES IN CONSULTATION LEVELS CANNOT BE PROCESSED ADMINISTRATIVELY PRIOR TO EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC NOTES

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ON NEW BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENT, THIS FACT SHOULD BE PASSED ON TO DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN TRADE AS WAY OF ENCOURAGING THAI BUREAUCRACY TO PROCESS EXCHANGE OF NOTES MORE EXPEDITIOUSLY.

6. PLEASE ADVISE. ABRAMOWITZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: TEXTILES, AGREEMENTS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 06 sep 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BANGKO25718
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D780363-0472 Format: TEL

From: BANGKOK Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780995/aaaadaru.tel

Line Count: 158 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 01126956-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION EB

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 186175, 78 BANGKOK 23612, 78 BANGKOK 21084

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 04 may 2005 Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 1524331 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: TEXTILES AGREEMENT

TAGS: ETRD, TH To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/01126956-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014